

Two Forester Moths: *Aglaope infausta* (LINNAEUS, 1767) and *Jordanita globulariae* (HÜBNER, [1793]) attracted at night by incandescent light in the District of the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence (France)

(Zygaenidae, Chalcosiinae & Procridinae)

by

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Abstract: The authors report the observations of *Aglaope infausta* (LINNAEUS, 1767) and *Jordanita globulariae* (HÜBNER, [1793]) in July 2006 in Alpes-de-Haute-Provence (France). Whilst the Almond-tree leaf skeletonizer moth, *A. infausta* (L.) was observed as a single ♂ specimen, the Scarce Forester, *J. globulariae* (HBN.) was regularly observed from 18 until 22 July. The authors state the time when the Foresters came to light and the earliest noted was 2.00 am CET.

Zusammenfassung: *Aglaope infausta* (LINNAEUS, 1767) und *Jordanita globulariae* (HÜBNER, [1793]) wurden im Juli 2006 in den Alpes-de-Haute-Provence (Frankreich) in der Nacht an sehr hellem Licht beobachtet. Während das Trauerwiddchen, *A. infausta* (L.), nur in einem männlichen Exemplar beobachtet wurde, konnte *J. globulariae* (HBN.) regelmäßig von 18.- 22. Juli beobachtet werden. Die Grünzygaenen flogen erst nach 2.00 Uhr in der Nacht ans Licht.

Introduction: It is not uncommon to see a butterfly or a day-flying moth caught in a light trap during warm nights. Most of the time, Burnets or Forester moths are seen early in the morning of the next day while caught in a Skinner-like moth trap. However, Forester moths are infrequently associated with the use of a classical light or even a black light with a white sheet as backdrop. This collecting method requires the presence of the collector to avoid the insect scuttling away and escaping from the light. The most useful method is attracting the moths with a light trap. The advantages of such a trap are multiple with no need to be present all the time, since the insect is rarely able to escape. However, the exact time when the butterflies or moths are attracted by the light cannot be recorded.

The Zygaenidae are a family of moths typically day-flying with a slow fluttering flight, but can be found in light traps. A few examples are known:

Harrisina americana (GUERIN) (Lepidoptera: Zygaenidae) is often collected in black light traps. Example in June 28, 1974, in Washington County (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/grapeipm/relatively_uncommon_ohio_grape.htm).

The blue species of the burnet moth (Zygaenidae, Procridinae), *Illiberis nigrigemma* (WALKER), is regularly recorded at light traps in Hong Kong in May-June (<http://hkinsect.net/forum/viewtopic.php?t=1535&sid=12c4367da325b666c7dff25c1e348b09>).

July 2006 in Thorame-Haute: For our holiday in summer 2006, in the upper Valley of the Verdon, we found a house in Thorame-Haute at 1200-1300 meters above sea level. The house had a large grass and Alfalfa field bordered by Poplars, Willow, Elm, Walnut and Tilia. We did not bring with us any light trap, but used the normal incandescent light bulb of either 60 W or 100 W with a 2 m≤-white sheet as backdrop.

The 100 W-light was illuminated each night from 11.00 pm for a period of 3-4 hours and the temperature was recorded hourly. If the moths were numerous every day, an even greater surprise was to see one *Cynthia cardui* (LINNAEUS, 1758), several ♂♂ of *Jordanita (Adscita) globulariae* (HÜBNER, [1793]) and one male of *Aglaope infausta* (LINNAEUS, 1767) (Table 1).

Species	Date	Time - Temperature - Lamp	Sex
<i>Aglaope infausta</i>	20.VII.2006	02:00 - 14°C - 100 W	1 ♂
<i>Jordanita globulariae</i> ¹	18.VII.2006	03:15 - 14°C - 60 W	2 ♂♂
<i>Jordanita globulariae</i> ²	19.VII.2006	02:15 - 10°C - 100 W	1 ♂
<i>Jordanita globulariae</i> ³	20.VII.2006	02:00 - 14°C - 100 W	2 ♂♂
<i>Jordanita globulariae</i> ³	21.VII.2006	03:00 - 14°C - 100 W	3 ♂♂
<i>Jordanita globulariae</i> ³	22.VII.2006	02:00 - 16°C - 100 W	1 ♂

Table 1. – Records of *Aglaope infausta* (LINNAEUS, 1767) and *Jordanita globulariae* (HÜBNER, [1793]) attracted at night by an incandescent lamp. (1: XAVIER MERIT det.; 2: praep. gen. ERIC DROUET N° 2005.10.16; 3: ERIC DROUET det.)

As shown in Table 1, only ♂♂ were attracted by the light between 02:00 and 03:00 am whilst the temperature was rather cool (10-16°C). ERIC DROUET (pers. comm.) confirmed that the Zygaenidae are infrequently recorded or reported being attracted to light traps. One of the reasons for the lack of such information may be the late appearance of the Forester moths, at a time when trapping sessions have often ended for the night. Those results may need corroboration, but we should acknowledge that it is quite arduous to combine collecting days and nocturnal trapping.

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